



Morning Alert - Tuesday, July 10, 2018

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## HEADLINES

### Morning news

Most networks and all national dailies led with reports on the aftermath of the record rainfall in western Japan, with NHK saying that 124 people have died, 6 people are in cardiac arrest, and 63 remain missing. The papers wrote that Prime Minister Abe on Monday canceled his planned trip to Europe and the Middle East on July 11-16 to deal with the devastation caused by the torrential rain. Although the premier had planned to sign a free trade agreement with the EU in Brussels on Wednesday, the EU has agreed to hold a signing ceremony in Tokyo on July 17.

NTV led with a report that Kei Nishikori advanced to the quarter-finals at Wimbledon, saying that this is the first time for a Japanese male player to reach the last eight at Wimbledon in 23 years.

## INTERNATIONAL

### U.S., Japan, ROK agree to maintain sanctions until complete denuclearization

All national dailies in their Monday evening editions reported on Sunday's trilateral meeting of Secretary of State Pompeo, Foreign Minister Kono, and South Korean Foreign Minister Kang in Tokyo and the post-meeting news conference. Yomiuri wrote that the GOJ welcomed the outcome of the Secretary's meeting with Vice Chairman Kim Yong Chol of the Workers' Party of Korea in Pyongyang on Friday and Saturday, during which the Secretary reportedly urged the DPRK to completely abandon its nuclear and missile programs and told the North Koreans that UNSC sanctions resolutions will remain in place until Pyongyang achieves complete denuclearization.

The national dailies ran follow-up reports on Tuesday. Yomiuri wrote that Secretary Pompeo expressed at the trilateral meeting confidence in progress in denuclearization talks with the DPRK by reportedly saying that the North Koreans expressed their commitment to "complete denuclearization."

But the paper conjectured that the DPRK may try to delay taking concrete actions toward denuclearization. The paper added that the GOJ is pleased with the fact that Secretary Pompeo raised the abduction issue at his talks with DPRK officials in Pyongyang, quoting an unnamed senior MOFA official as saying that the United States understands Japan's position that economic assistance is the most powerful tool in urging North Korea to resolve the abduction issue.

Asahi asserted that although Secretary Pompeo reportedly said ahead of his visit to Pyongyang that he will seek to fill in the details on North Korea's commitment to denuclearization, his talks with the North Koreans produced only limited results, with the DPRK criticizing the U.S. attitude as "one-sided" after the Secretary said the meeting was productive. Nikkei assessed that the talks in Pyongyang indicated a rocky start for U.S.-DPRK high-level talks because North Korea reportedly failed to present a timeline for denuclearization and instead insisted on discussing an official end to the Korean War. Mainichi wrote that the Secretary expressed at the news conference in Tokyo his strong hope that Chairman Kim Jong Un will fulfill his promise to President Trump. Sankei claimed that although the Secretary stressed progress in his talks with DPRK officials, the North Koreans' expression of displeasure with the U.S. government's attitude is evidence of discord between Washington and Pyongyang.

### **Secretary Pompeo urges North Korea to follow Vietnam's example**

Monday evening's Nikkei wrote that Secretary of State Pompeo reportedly said in Hanoi on Sunday that President Trump believes that North Korea could replicate Vietnam's path to normal relations with the United States. Speaking to business executives in Hanoi, the Secretary reportedly said the key to Vietnam's rise in the post-Vietnam War decades was engagement with the United States, noting that the two countries worked together to repatriate the remains of U.S. service members lost in the conflict. The Secretary reportedly added that his visit to Vietnam is a testament to the great decision made by the United States and Vietnam to create a bright future by overcoming the past.

## **ECONOMY**

### **Keidanren expresses opposition to U.S. plan for additional auto tariffs**

Mainichi and Yomiuri wrote that Keidanren Chairman Nakanishi disclosed at a news conference on Monday that the federation has submitted to Secretary of Commerce Ross a written statement opposing the U.S. plan to impose additional tariffs on auto and auto parts. The papers wrote that in the statement, dated June 29, Keidanren stressed that Japanese automakers and other companies have made large investments and created jobs in the United States and that unilateral tariffs would act as a disincentive to further investment. Mainichi wrote that it is very unusual for Keidanren to submit a written opinion to the U.S. government.

## **SECURITY**

### **GOJ, Okinawa discuss Futenma**

All national dailies wrote that the GOJ, the Okinawa prefectural government, and the municipal government of Ginowan held a working group meeting on reducing the burden of the Futenma Air Station at the prefectural government office on Monday. Asahi wrote that although the prefecture and the municipality requested the central government terminate operations at the base by February 2019, the GOJ insisted that the relocation of its functions to Henoko is a prerequisite for its closure. The meeting, the ninth of the working group, was held for the first time since September 2017. Noting that the consultative meeting was held for the first time in Okinawa, Asahi speculated that the central government may have tried to demonstrate its efforts to reduce the base-hosting burden on Okinawa ahead of the gubernatorial election slated for November. Yomiuri and Nikkei wrote that Ginowan Mayor Sakima made a request to set up a new consultative group involving the U.S. military to discuss noise issues related to the airfield and that the GOJ responded by saying it will study the idea.

In a related development, the papers wrote that on Monday the LDP Okinawa chapter made an official request to Ginowan Mayor Sakima to run in the gubernatorial race. Sakima reportedly responded that he takes the request seriously.

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